

Did You Know?

Before beginning repairs, remodeling or demolition, Texas law requires that all public buildings be inspected for asbestos before work begins. If asbestos is found, the Texas Department of State Health Services must be notified of demolition and/or abatement (removal, encapsulation or enclosure). This requirement applies to any public or commercial building such as office buildings, shopping centers, apartments, hotels, schools, stores, restaurants, and other businesses. A violation of any portion of the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act (TAHPA) or the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Rules (TAHPR) can result in fines.

Contact Us

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Asbestos Program

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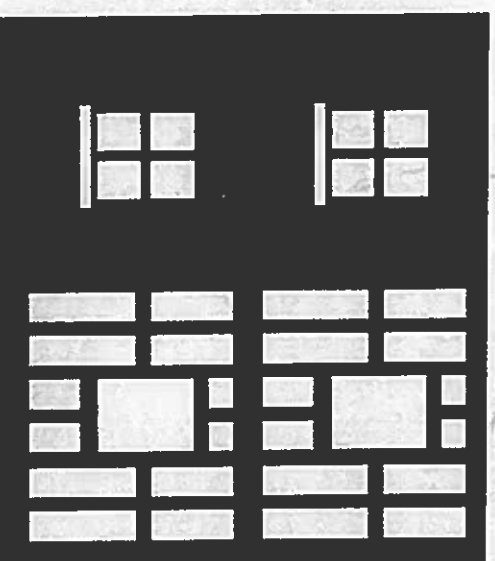
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Public Health Region Contacts:
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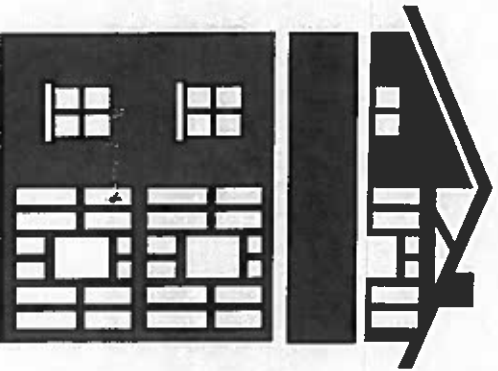
SURVEYS



Publication Number: 18-14160
Revised November 2015

Asbestos Today

It is a common misconception that asbestos is usually found only in buildings constructed before 1970. Asbestos is still being used in many building materials such as exterior siding, insulation, ceiling and floor tile, wall board, duct work, textured paint, mastics and other adhesives. Though asbestos-containing building materials are generally believed to be safe if left undisturbed, repairs, remodeling or demolition can result in the release of microscopic fibers of asbestos into the air. Breathing asbestos fibers has been shown to be a cause of serious lung diseases and cancer. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Asbestos Program administers the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Rules (TAHPR) that established minimum requirements to minimize the exposure of the public to asbestos fibers during the renovation and demolition of public and commercial buildings.



REQUIREMENTS

Building owners must take the following steps to ensure compliance with state and federal asbestos regulations (homes and apartments with fewer than four units are excluded from these requirements unless part of a larger project):

- Asbestos Inspection (Survey) - Make sure that a comprehensive asbestos inspection, also known as a survey, is completed by a DSHS-licensed asbestos inspector in public buildings or by either a licensed or accredited asbestos inspector in other facilities.
- Asbestos Abatement - Hire only licensed asbestos professionals to perform asbestos abatement or other asbestos-related activities in public buildings. (A list of licensed asbestos inspectors and asbestos removal contractors is available from the DSHS Asbestos Program website.) Hire licensed or accredited asbestos professionals to perform asbestos-related activities in other facilities.
- Asbestos Notification - Notify the DSHS Environmental Health Notifications Group (EHNG) if you intend to demolish or abate a public building or facility. Notification is required for any demolition, whether or not asbestos has been identified.

How to Notify

Notifications must be submitted at least 10 working days before the project start date. In addition to the scheduled start and completion dates, you will need to identify the type of project (demolition or renovation), location of the site, names of the operators or asbestos removal contractors, methods of removal and amount of asbestos involved. To submit the asbestos notification form online, visit the department's webpage at <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us>. Follow the instructions under the section titled "Asbestos Notifications" to register and submit a notification. If you have questions about the online system contact the EHNG at (512) 834-6747 or via email at EHNG.help@dshs.state.tx.us.

PENALTIES

State Asbestos Inspectors have the authority to enter any area to determine compliance with the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act (TAH-PA) and the TAHPR. In addition, violations can result in fines. Each day a violation continues is considered a separate violation. Learn more about these regulations and the health risks associated with asbestos by contacting us or visiting our website.

